

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 9:05 AM – 12:05 PM
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

See the last page for a list of acronyms

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Abby Barnes (WDNR), State Agencies; **Mark Biever** (Thurston Co), Local Governments; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Heather Trim** (Futurewise), Environmental Groups; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Will Appleton** (Federal Way); **Brian Chappell** (Pierce County); **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island); **Foroozan Labib** (Ecology); **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology); **Larry Schaffner** (WSDOT); **Dan Smith** (Federal Way); **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science and Policy); **Chris Thorn** (Auburn).

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology)

CHANGE IN WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Mel Oleson of The Boeing Co. will no longer represent Business Groups. AWB will appoint a new representative.

WORK GROUP APPROVES REVISED LIST OF RSMP EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

At our last meeting we discussed a list of effectiveness study topics and questions that our Effectiveness Subgroup had revised based on the syntheses of the findings of the effectiveness study literature review. The work group reviewed the history of getting to this point starting with the Effectiveness Subgroup gathering more than 170 questions in early 2011 to compile, evaluate, and prioritize. The work group submitted a list of 22 ranked topics to Ecology in September 2011, and the literature review was completed a few months later. The synthesis of the literature review findings focused on the top dozen or so topics from the September 2011 list, and the revised list includes the top 6-8 with some combination of topics. The Effectiveness Subgroup met on May 20 to discuss feedback from the May 1 work group meeting and agreed on the revised list that was sent to work group members with the agenda for this meeting.

The Local Government Caucus of the work group met last week and generally agreed that, although many members would have a different list, it is a good list of topics. Many members had questions about how Ecology plans to use the list and believed the rankings should be removed. The Effectiveness Subgroup has discussed having a pre-proposal workshop this fall to generate discussion among permittees and others interested in various topics. Both this pre-RFP workshop and the following study proposal evaluation processes might result in something lower on this list being done first and something high on this list not being done at all. Ecology should use those processes to further set priorities.

The Seattle representative expressed concern that the list does not address questions that apply to their ultra-urban core setting. Seattle continues to disagree with the cost allocation approach that Ecology used in the permits.

Work group members discussed whether to include the public education and outreach topic on the final list, including concerns about duplicating efforts by STORM and other programs to assess effectiveness, including existing permit requirements outside the RSMP. The synthesis paper on this topic provided information about

how to improve outreach and how to pick measurable objectives. Work group members agreed to exclude this from the final list of topics while at the same time emphasizing the need for evaluation of these programs. The limited amount of funding available should be directed toward the other topics for the first round of RSMP effectiveness studies

Work group members discussed whether to include a roads and highways topic placeholder on the final list. Members discussed the permit process concerns raised in last week's email from Bill Moore and an overall desire to move forward with the list. Work group members agreed that no placeholder would be added, but that the cover letter for the final list should articulate that the studies conducted by RSMP effectiveness studies should address a range of land uses from ultra-urban to rural, including roads and highways.

Work group members **approved** the revised list with one dissenting vote and two edits: (1) removal of the numbered rankings and (2) removal of the public education and outreach topic. Chair Jim Simmonds will draft a cover letter that includes the key points of concern listed above. Jim will circulate the letter among SWG members for a quick review and then send it to Ecology.

WORK GROUP HEARS FINDINGS OF STREAM GAGING NETWORK ANALYSES

Chris Konrad of USGS presented findings from his recent work following up on the first stream gaging analysis that was completed last year. His PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the SWG's [Meeting Summaries](#) webpage. The final report will be online later this summer. Chris found that the existing network will be useful for regional monitoring. It is likely that we will be able to transfer or infer information upstream or downstream from the current gages for nearly one third of the 100 randomly selected RSMP small streams sites. Chris cautions that his work provides a snapshot of the current network. Individual gages may be discontinued due to budget cuts or other changes in priorities.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS MONITORING

Larry Schaffner of WSDOT presented the preliminary draft recommendations from the Roads and Highways Subgroup. The subgroup will continue to work on recommendations over the summer. Some of the proposals shared with the work group in preparation for today's meeting will be merged. Work group members requested that Larry and Dick Gersib share the following suggestions, concerns, and other feedback with the subgroup to provide direction for its work over the summer:

- Permeable pavement studies should have a broader focus beyond shoulders and gutters, and in particular as overlays and in park and ride areas.
- Permeable pavement studies should address impacts of infiltrated water on utilities located under the roadway. This is important for local jurisdictions' asset management.
- Permeable pavement studies should consider subsurface alterations in hydrology, for example, water and sewer pipes in gravel beds beneath the roadway likely act as French drains to transport flow.
- Identify some effectiveness studies that are linked to more densely developed or ultra-urban areas.
- More, up-to-date information is needed about the pollutants in highway runoff.
- Include maintenance yards in the Source Identification recommendations for roads and highways.
- Include recommendations for high-priority parameters to sample in the RSMP status and trends effort.
- Build on recent NOAA/USFWS findings and continue to address road runoff treatment needs to reduce pre-spawn mortality of salmon in urban Puget Sound streams.

Work group members acknowledged frustration that the timing is off for evaluating current data and using the findings to improve the next WSDOT permit and to better coordinate the WSDOT permit and the municipal permits. We did not discuss the full set of recommendations during today's meeting. Members are encouraged to track the subgroup's process and progress over the summer.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT OTHER PROGRESS BY SWG SUBGROUPS AND AT OTHER PSEMP MEETINGS

The PSEMP Steering Committee met yesterday. SWG gaps are not necessarily being reflected in the overall prioritization process which is driven by the dashboard of indicators. Other water bodies such as lakes, wetlands, and groundwater might be included in the Freshwater Work Group's priorities. SWG staff Karen Dinicola is trying to get our work group's progress included in bi-weekly PSP updates to the Science Panel and others.

A new SWG Reporter needs to go out soon, we didn't send one out after the last meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Approve roads and highways monitoring recommendations
- Discuss recommendations for effectiveness studies for agricultural runoff
- Discuss membership and plans to convene the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
- Hear status of implementing our 2013-2014 work plan
- Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
- Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other workgroups

Subsequent meetings this year are scheduled September 18 and November 13. We will try to have all meetings end by noon, but because we are planning to meet less frequently, we ask that work group members be flexible with meetings occasionally lasting until 1pm or even 2 pm.

Acronyms used in this meeting summary:

AWB: Association of Washington Business

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP: Puget Sound Partnership

RFP: Request for Proposals

RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

STORM: Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities

SWG: Stormwater Work Group

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

WDNR: Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WSDOT: Washington Dept. of Transportation